

CRICKHOWELL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL

REPORT

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH
RECEIVED
17 JUL 1961
A.



1960

CRICKHOWELL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.
1960.

<u>COUNCILLORS.</u>	<u>PARISH.</u>
J. Mills Price, J.P. (Chairman of the Council)	Cwmdu.
The Rev. J.M. Evans. (Vice-Chairman of the Council)	Llangenny.
O.H. Williams, J.P.	Cwmdu.
Col. P. Fisher, J.P.	Llangenny.
W. Gittoes.	Llangattock.
B. Rees.	Llangattock.
R.G. Jones.	Crickhowell.
Miss M.A. Haywood.	Crickhowell.
E. Davies.	Llanbedr.
W.H. Paske.	Llanelly. (Gilwern Ward)
G. Bush.	Llanelly. (Gilwern Ward)
H.J. McIntosh.	Llanelly. (Clydach Ward)
A. Williams.	Llanelly. (Daremfelen Ward)
Mrs. G.M. Llewelyn.	Llangynidr.
C.S. Farr.	Llangynidr.
Col. C.E. Beckwith.	Partrishow.

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT 1960.

Surveyor & Public Health Inspector.	R.A. Jackson, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H. Cert. (Meat & Foods)
Housing Inspector.	M.A. Thomas.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE.

Chairman.	Cllr. The Rev. J.M. Evans.
Vice-Chairman.	Cllr. Miss M.A. Haywood.

3.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Crickhowell Rural District Council.

Gentlemen and Ladies,

May I respectfully present the Annual Report
on the Sanitary circumstances of the district, the
health of the people and the work of the Public
Health Department during the year 1960.

The Council have been without the services
of a Medical Officer of Health during the whole of
the twelve months, and, although at the time of
writing we now have the able services of
Dr. Creighton Edwards as Medical Officer, it must
be appreciated that this report covers the period
up to 31st December 1960.

May I take this opportunity of thanking
the Members of the Staff for their help and
co-operation.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient Servant,

R. A. JACKSON.

M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Surveyor & Public Health Inspector.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

<u>Population:-</u>	(Registrar General's Estimate)	7,990.
<u>Number of Parishes:-</u>		8.
<u>Acreage:-</u>	According to 1951 census.	46,140 acres.
<u>Rateable Value as at 1st April, 1960:-</u>		£55,135.0.0d.
<u>Product of a Penny Rate:-</u>	Actual 1959/60. Estimated 1960/61.	£211.2.3d. £210.0.0d.
<u>Rate in the Pound:-</u>	1959/1960 1960/1961	£1. 1. 0d. £1. 4. 0d.
<u>Water Rate:-</u>	2/6d. in the £ with a minimum of £1.10.0d. per annum.	
<u>Number of Dwellings (including farms):-</u>		2,446.
<u>Number of Council Houses (included in above figure)</u>		377.

Crickhowell is a large District in South Breconshire, mainly mountainous in character, with an acreage of 46,140 acres.

The District is divided into eight Parishes, Crickhowell, Llangattock, Cwmdru, Llangenny, Llangynidr, Llanbedr, and Partrishow, which are mainly agricultural, and Llanelltydy which is mainly industrial. In the agricultural area the workers are employed mainly in farm work, forestry and quarrying. In the industrial area, the workers are employed mainly in adjacent coalmines in North Monmouthshire, and Elvicta Handtools factory in Crickhowell. The District also supplies labour to the British Nylon Spinners Ltd., Pontypool, Richard Thomas & Baldwins Ltd., Steelworks, Ebbw Vale, and the Glascoed Ordnance Factory, Usk.

The re-housing of families from unfit dwellings continues together with applicants from the ordinary lists in cases of hardship, illness and overcrowding.

Tenants are selected with the assistance of a Points Scheme adopted by the Council so as to allocate houses to families in the greatest need, conditions of existing accommodation, overcrowding and health circumstances, all rating for "points award".

When Council houses are allocated to applicants their old houses are inspected with a view to their future use being considered. These houses, if they are unfit for human habitation and cannot be repaired at reasonable expense, are then covered by a Demolition Order or Closing Order.

HOUSING - DEMOLITION AND CLOSING ORDERS.

Unfit houses closed or demolished under the Housing Act, 1957 in the year 1960. 12

The remaining six families were re-housed from Danyparc ex-Army Camp which has been cleared and de-requisitioned.

Number of applicants for Council Houses on 1st January, 1960. 125

Number of applicants remaining on the Council's list 31st December, 1960. 161

Total number of post-war Council Houses 1st January, 1961. 377

Number of Council Houses completed during the year 1960. 23

Number of Council Houses under construction on 31st December, 1960. 31

Number of Private Houses completed during the year 1960. 25

School Medical Service, Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, and the provision of school meals are carried out by the County Council.

The health of the District during the year has, on the whole, been good. There has been an absence of any serious outbreaks of epidemic diseases. The majority of the deaths during the year were in the higher age groups. The incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis has been low, cases occurring have been adequately and quickly dealt with by the Chest Physicians at their Clinics at Brecon and Pontllanfraith.

There have been no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year. Inspections have been carried out from time to time of various food handling stores, bake-houses, licensed premises and shops selling ice-cream in accordance with the Regulations. Minor defects have been pointed out and corrected. It has not been necessary to take any legal proceedings under the Food and Drugs Act, or under the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.

No action has been necessary under this Section during the year 1960.

SECTION A.V I T A L S T A T I S T I C S.

<u>Population:-</u>	(Registrar General's Estimate)			7,990
<u>Total Births:-</u>	Male	66	Female	50 Total = 116
<u>Total Deaths:-</u>	Male	50	Female	47 Total = 97
<u>Still Births:-</u>	Male	-	Female	2 Total = 2
<u>Crude Birth Rate:-</u>				= 14.52
<u>Crude Death Rate:-</u>				= 12.14
<u>Infantile Mortality Rate:-</u>	(3 deaths)			= 25.86
<u>Transferable Deaths:-</u>	Inward 30 Outward 3			
<u>Comparability Factors:-</u>	Births 1.11 Deaths 1.03			

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

<u>Causes.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
<u>All Causes.</u>	50	47
1. Tuberculosis (Respiratory).	0	0
2. Tuberculosis (Other Form).	0	0
3. Syphilitic.	0	0
4. Diphtheria.	0	0
5. Whooping Cough.	0	0
6. Meningococcal Infection.	0	0
7. Acute Poliomyelitis.	0	0
8. Measles.	0	0
9. Other infective and Parasitic Diseases.	1	0
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach.	1	0
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	2	0
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast.	0	3
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus.	0	1
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms.	6	2
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia.	0	0
16. Diabetes.	0	0
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.	2	8
18. Coronary disease, angina.	9	3
19. Hypertension with heart disease.	1	2
20. Other heart disease.	5	11
21. Other circulatory disease.	5	1
22. Influenza.	0	1
23. Pneumonia.	1	4
24. Bronchitis.	6	4
25. Other diseases of respiratory system.	3	0
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	1	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	0	0
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis.	0	0
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.	0	0
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	0	0
31. Congenital malformations.	1	0
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	4	3
33. Motor vehicle accidents.	0	0
34. All other accidents.	0	2
35. Suicide.	2	0
36. Homicides and operations of war.	0	0

SECTION B.

Laboratory Facilities	= Public Health Laboratory, Clytha Square, Newport, Mon.
Ambulance Facilities	= Breconshire County Council Ambulance stationed at Crickhowell.
Nursing in the Home	= Breconshire County Council.
Clinics and Centres	= Welsh Regional Hospital Board and North Monmouthshire Management Committee, War Memorial Hospital, Crickhowell. School Clinic, Market Hall, Crickhowell.

SECTION C.INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications. The following cases, other than Tuberculosis, were notified during the year 1960:-

<u>Diseases.</u>	<u>Number of Cases.</u>
Whooping Cough.	16
Scarlet Fever.	3
Acute Pneumonia.	1

Tuberculosis. A schedule on new cases and removals from the Register is given below.

<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Removals from Register.</u>			
Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

Number of Cases remaining on Register 31st December, 1960.

Respiratory.			Non-Respiratory.		
M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
20	19	39	2	2	4

SCHOOLS. No schools were closed during the year 1960, in consequence of infectious diseases.

SECTION D.SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.WATER.

The South East Breconshire Water Board enter their second year as the Authority controlling the water supplies in this Council's area, and the friendly co-operation between the Rural District and the Water Board continues to exist and proves most helpful when assistance or advice is required by either side.

The Summer of 1960 was one of the wettest in history and, unlike 1959, drought was not one of their problems.

The Council's area has a piped water supply to all centres of population served mainly from local springs harnessed to small local reservoirs. These are now sampled regularly by the Water Board, but, as in the past, the bacteriological results vary considerably due to the catchment areas frequently being unfenced agricultural ground. However, the Water Board are actively pursuing their comprehensive scheme to harness their three main sources to a large grid distribution system that will supply an adequate and pure water to all areas, and so dispense with the present local springs which can be doubtful in quality and poor in yield.

This Council is still responsible for approving the use of new supplies in their district for human consumption, and surveys of springs, together with their sampling, has continued throughout the year, and this applies particularly to farms being improved by Ministry of Agriculture Grants.

ESTIMATED POPULATION SUPPLIED BY A PUBLIC PIPED WATER SUPPLY.

Estimated total	7,990 (Reg. Gen. estimate for 1960)	This figure includes 400 for Cwrt-y-gollen Camp.
Estimated population supplied into the houses.	6,798	This figure includes 400 for Cwrt-y-gollen Camp.
Estimated population supplied by standpipes.	45	
Estimated total population supplied.	6,843	This figure includes 400 for Cwrt-y-gollen Camp.
Estimated population without a public piped water supply.	1,157	

Parish.	Estimated Total Population.	Estimated Population Supplied.		
		Piped Supply.	Standpipe.	Total.
Crickhowell	1,523	1466	Nil	1466
Cwmdu	752	401	26	427
Llanbedr	227	54	Nil	54
Llangynidr	517	411	3	414
Llangattock	769	604	Nil	604
Llangenny	760	702	Nil	702
Llanelly	3,374	3,160	16	3,176
Partrishow	68	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTALS	7,990	6,798	45	6,843

Includes
400 for
Cwrt-y-gollen
Camp.

RODENT CONTROL.

A full time Rodent Operator is employed by the Council, and he has carried out the following treatments during the year:-

Private Dwellings.....203
 Business Premises..... 14
 Schools..... 2
 Sewerage Systems.....Regular Treatment.
 Refuse Tips....." "
 Books in Villages....." "
 Farms in the area surveyed and treated.

The response to our offer to treat any of the 250 farms in the area has been poor, and only 8 annual contracts were signed.

Certain farms prefer to pay for individual treatments, and this occurred in 10 cases.

Contracts have also been signed for Cwrt-y-gollen Military Camp, Tymawr School, Tymawr School Farm and Elvicta Handtools Factory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Apart from Crickhowell, Gilwern, Llangattock and all Council Housing Estates, the remainder of the district relies upon cesspits, septic tanks and pail closets and is without modern water borne sewage systems. This important and very necessary provision was thoroughly discussed when the Council's Consulting Engineers presented their preliminary report following a survey of the district.

The Council decided to proceed with two five year capital programmes of sewerage and sewage disposal schemes as follows:-

<u>Area.</u>	<u>Estimated Cost.</u>
<u>1st Five Years.</u>	
Bwlch.	£32,500
Tretower.	£ 8,000
Llangynidr.	£52,000
Clydach.	£60,000
Llanbedr.	£ 5,500
<u>2nd Five Years.</u>	
Cwmdu.	£12,000
Glangrwyney.	£ 9,000

The Clydach area, comprising 224 premises, is one of the most urgent schemes and also one of the most difficult. The congestion of the dwellings, steepness of the ground and the smallness of the gardens, makes the disposal of pail closet contents an unpleasant problem, whilst washing and sink wastes have to be discharged down roadside gutters.

The area is bisected by a busy trunk road and this, together with underground rock and the necessity of laying two or three lengths of sewer to pick up premises situated in tiers on the hillsides, results in a scheme of high cost.

One naturally considers whether the standard of housing in the area justifies a scheme of such expense, but it is my opinion that Clydach will continue to live and, with the new Trunk Road and a Sewerage System, will have a new lease of life.

A sewerage system opens up the possibility of hot water supplies and bathrooms, and, aided by improvement grants, owner-occupiers will, I feel sure, modernise their houses and build up a new community around the present School and Housing Estate.

The Consulting Engineers are now investigating the possibility of constructing a Clydach Sewage Disposal Works in the Saleyard area, so obviating the necessity of taking Clydach sewage through the Gilwern System to the Aberbaiden Works.

Gilwern is rapidly expanding and, with sites for nearly 300 further dwellings having been approved for Planning, could very soon double itself in size. This immediately raises the sewage disposal problem as accommodation must be made available in good time for this population increase.

The Scheme to link up the Crickhowell sewage with the new disposal works, now accommodating Llangattock, and so dispense with the two existing disposal works, will commence early in January 1961.

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS.

Regular maintenance and sludge removal, by pumping with the Wickham Towed Diesel Pump, has been carried out at the ten treatment plants situated at the following Housing Estates:-

Penallt, Penllwyn, Danycoed (3 tanks),
Glangrwyney, Llangenny, St. Michael's Close,
Groesffordd, Glasfryn Terrace.

Daily maintenance has been given to the four public sewage treatment plants and the eleven electrically operated sewage pumps at Crickhowell and Gilwern.

The pumps have been given regular inspection by the Insurance Company Inspectors and their reports have been satisfactory.

The increased amount of sludge at the Gilwern Sewage Disposal Works, Aberhaiden, together with the very wet weather, necessitated the employment of a Contractor to remove sludge by Tanker Vehicle direct from the sludge lagoon. This was an experiment but the results were very good.

PUBLIC CLEANSING - REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The general scavenging of the area has operated satisfactorily, and during the year the lorry travelled 7,780 miles and carried away 8,540 cubic yards of refuse to the tips at Crickhowell and Gilwern.

With the demolition of the cottages in close proximity to the Gilwern Tip the Heading in the Brynmawr direction has now been put back into operation.

The small area of land purchased from the Breconshire County Council at Crickhowell, to extend the Tip in Llangenny Lane, is still not available to the Council as the land has not yet legally changed hands.

The regular treatment of the tip faces with an insecticide powder, applied by a "blower", continues to give an excellent result in the reduction of any fly or wasp nuisance.

Continuous control of rat infestation is carried out at both Tips.

FOOD AND DRUGS.FOOD CONDEMNED AND VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED.

The following goods, were on inspection, found to be unfit and were voluntarily surrendered:-

37 tins Meat.
 19 tins Milk.
 48 tins Tomatoes.
 14 tins Pineapples.
 10 tins Cherries.
 17 tins Peaches.
 12 tins Baked Beans.
 16 tins Peas.
 8 tins Fruit Salad.
 2 tins Irish Stew.
 8 tins Soup.
 2 tins Sardines.
 5 tins Strawberries.
 5 tins Salmon.
 2 tins Butter Beans.
 2 tins Beetroot.
 2 tins Pilchards.
 2 tins Carrots.
 4 tins Apricots.
 6 tins Plums.
 3 tins Pears.
 1 tin Corned Beef.
 1 tin Pineapple Flavour.
 1 tin Mustard.
 1 tin Crab.
 1 tin Grapefruit Juice.
 1 tin Scotch Broth.
 1 tin Grapefruit.
 1 tin Oranges.
 1 tin Raspberries.
 1 tin Shrimps.
 1 tin French Beans.
 27 lbs Sausages.
 3 lbs Marmalade.
 2 lbs Strawberry Jam.
 4 lbs Shelled Walnuts.
 31 pkts. Processed Cheese.
 6 pkts. Table Salt.
 1 pkt. Shredded Wheat.
 1 pkt. Macaroni.
 3 Pork Pies.

MILK.The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960.

Under the above Act the licensing of Retail Milk Dealers was transferred to the Breconshire County Council as from 1st October, 1960.

Retail Dealers licensed at that time by this Council were:-

Mr. B. Richards, Crickhowell.	-	T.T. and Pasteurised.
Mr. I. Jenkins, Clydach.	-	Pasteurised.
Mr. H. Small, Llangynidr.	-	T.T.
Miss V.M. Powell, Clydach.	-	Pasteurised.
Mr. A. McIntosh, Clydach.	-	Pasteurised.
Mr. P.G. Morris, Gilwern.	-	T.T.

Mrs. K. Allen, Twynwenallt, - Pasteurised.
 Gilwern.
 Mr. T. Bees, Llanelly Hill. - Pasteurised.
 Mr. W.B. Williams, Llangenny. - T.T.

Sampling of milk for purity and keeping quality can still be carried out by this Authority.

ICE CREAM.

Thirty four premises are now registered for the sale of ice cream under the Food and Drugs Act.

The following new registration was granted during the year:-

Mr. W.E. Taylor, Navigation Inn, Gilwern.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND KNACKER'S YARD.

No slaughtering took place during the year at the local slaughterhouse of Mr. J.E. Price in High Street, Crickhowell, and, in fact, the use of the premises has been discontinued as they were not capable of being brought up to the standard required by the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958.

Section 3 of the above Act called for a report on slaughtering facilities within the area of all local authorities, and, briefly, this Council stated:-

"Slaughtering facilities are adequate providing the Brynmawr slaughterhouse remains available, and that this fact is confirmed by the report of the Brynmawr Urban District Council".

The Knacker's Yard of Mr. J. Davies, Tredegar, situated at Gilwern, has been regularly inspected and found to be efficiently and hygienically operated with full records maintained.

TRUNK ROAD REINTERMENTS.

The proposed route of the Heads of the Valley Trunk Road passes through part of three old burial grounds and, prior to construction of the road, it became necessary to clear these areas and reinter the remains in other consecrated ground.

The Contractor accepted for this work was Messrs. T. Williams & Sons, Abergavenny, and work was commenced on 29th June, 1960, and completed on 6th October, 1960.

A very complete specification had been drawn up by the Consulting Engineers of the Ministry of Transport, following consultations with this Authority, embodying instructions on screening, liming, storage of remains, indexing, re-burial and re-erection of headstones.

The work was carried out very efficiently and every co-operation was given by the Contractor to the Officials of **your** Public Health Department who visited the work every day and attended all re-burials conducted by the Local Minister or Local Rector.

Some of the graves were very old, the headstones remaining indicated burials of over 130 years ago and there were very many more, as indicated below, where the headstones had long since disappeared.

Location.	Graves listed.	Graves found.	Remains reinterred.
Siloam Chapel, Clydach.	71	161	382
Mission Room, Blackrock.	5	197	200
Chapel near Pink House, Gilwern.	5	12	21
TOTALS	81	370	603

SURVEYS AND INSPECTIONS.

The following is a summary of the inspections carried out during the year 1960:-

Detailed house inspections.....	491
Public Health Acts.....	549
Food.....	14
Factories.....	21
Complaints investigated.....	48
Scavenging investigations.....	13
Drainage investigations.....	155
Water supply investigations.....	24

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Housing conditions continue to improve with the installation of modern amenities to old houses with the aid of improvement grants.

In the twelve months covered by this report 18 improvement grants were approved, being 17 Discretionary grants and 1 Standard grant. This compared with a figure of 21 in 1959 of which 2 were Standard grants.

PLANNING AND BYELAW APPLICATIONS.

For the twelve months ending 31st December 1960,
the following applications were received:-

162 Applications for Building Byelaw approval.

158 Applications for Planning approval.

NOTICES SERVED.

Informal.		Statutory.	
Served.	Complied with.	Served.	Complied with.
18	15	-	-

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948.

Details of the routine inspection at the eighteen
factories in the area are contained on separate Ministry
forms.

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